

Adult Ball Games Slated

Adult basketball games at Torrance high school gym will be played February 7 as follows: Knolls drug store vs. Burchfields Rug Works, 6:50 p.m.; Kenny's Shoe Repair vs. Boy's Service, 7:55 p.m.; Lutheran Aeros vs. Lutheran Men, 9 p.m.

Now you Know!

The answers to everyday insurance problems*

By Les King

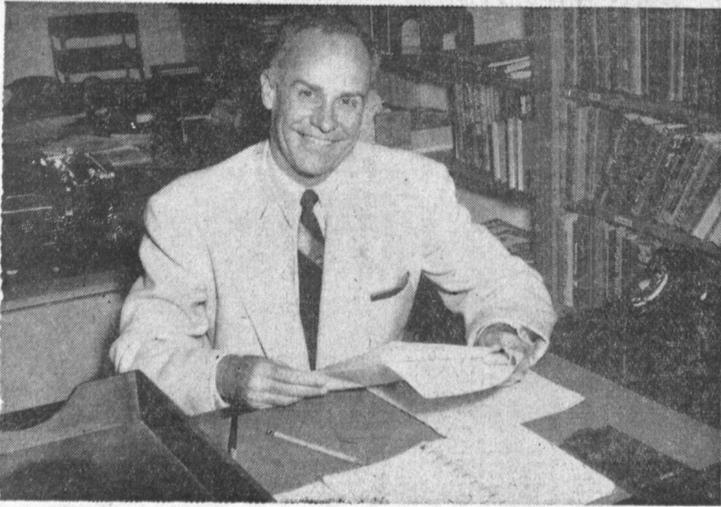


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DR. CRAIG THOMAS... It's all in the mind.

Press Photo

DR. CRAIG THOMAS -- HIRED 'TO THINK'!

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ

Americans are getting pretty well conditioned to unusual occupations thanks to the popular TV program "What's My Line." But Torrance itself has one man who might stump the experts.

His name is Dr. Craig Thomas who is associated with the Torrance Unified School District. His job is "to think."

Since titles are the order of the day everywhere, Dr. Thomas also has a title, being officially called an "educational consultant."

However, that title does not begin to tell the story.

Something New

Dr. Thomas' position is "a completely new wrinkle in school administration," as he himself puts it. It is a pioneer project and Torrance may very well be starting a national trend.

"Dr. Hull, our superintendent of schools, borrowed the idea from industry where more and more big industrial firms are developing 'think squads' of specialists who are freed from routine assignments and the pressures that go along with it," Dr. Thomas explained.

"His job is to do the long-term thinking that is necessary to the successful development of their firms. Dr. Hull thought of adapting this policy to school planning."

Strictly Confidential

Dr. Thomas is available in a consulting capacity to anyone from the superintendent on down to the principal. The value of his services lies in the fact that administrators may sit down with him to think out a problem in strict confidence without judgment being passed upon them and without feeling obligated to reach a decision and take action.

"I simply talk a question over with them from a standpoint of 'what will happen if' I try to think through the various facets of a problem and its consequences but I never advise as to what to do, leaving the decision to the administrator," Dr. Thomas explained.

Some of the areas in which he has worked since he joined the school district last year include 1) work experience program, 2) better methods

for preparing teachers, 3) policies relating to student activities, 4) major research in methods of identifying and improving instruction for gifted children, and 5) the reading program.

"I am an evaluator rather than a salesman or a defender," Dr. Thomas went on to emphasize. "I do not pass judgment on the competence of the individuals with whom I consult. My job is a new idea in educational administration—a consultant who isn't a specialist but who has a broad experience in all areas of education and who will work with administrators for the improvement of the district."

Well Qualified

Dr. Thomas is well qualified for the task which he has assumed.

He has been exposed to the educational environment from his childhood on, being the son of Dr. Frank W. Thomas, president of Fresno State college.

"Like father, like son," is applicable in this instance, since Dr. Thomas drifted naturally into the educational field where he has numerous significant achievements to his credit.

He has taught from the junior high school level to the college graduate level; acted as dean of instruction and chairman of the graduate council at Arizona State college; and served as director of Compton college.

Before coming to work for the Torrance district, Dr. Thomas wrote and edited a monumental project which has been called the "Magna Carta" of public education and which may change the whole educational set-up.

It calls for the decentraliza-

Elk Officials Guests At T-Timers Club Meet

South Bay T-Timers, newly organized Boys auto club, met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Burk of Zakon on January 29th. Organizers and advisors of the club, Frank Burk and Marvin Jones, discussed with the members plans for a new garage which will be located at 298 North Pacific Avenue, Redondo Beach. The grand opening is scheduled to take place on February 26th. All members are urged to attend this meeting and bring along their parents to see the new garage. Also, parents of boys interested in joining the T-Timers are welcome.

Other discussions during the meeting included the Drag Races that are planned at the San Fernando Drag Strip on February 18th and 19th. Stay overnight at very low cost and be there for the beginning of the races. For accommodations see Gary Sigman, secretary, 27132 Buckskin Lane, Rolling Hills — DAVENPORT 6-1750.

Refreshments of rolls, doughnuts, and coffee were served the honored guests and members. The boys, also had pictures of themselves and their cars to be put up in the new garage.

Honor Guests were: Judge Otto Willett, Exalted Ruler of the Redondo Elks Lodge, and Joe C. Yates, Exalted Ruler of the Torrance Elks Lodge. The Navy was well represented with the presence of Chief Engineman Fred Dietrich, and First-Class Engineman Al Metney. Brother Elk and Chief Field Executive of T-Timers Inc., Hal Hild, was also present at the meeting.

Applications for Fred Dietrich, Wiley Gilmore, Glenn M. Currie, and Gary Gillis were turned in at the January 29th meeting.

Members present at this meeting were: Pete Martanez, Dick Arnold, Chuck Middleton, Robert "Bob" Krash, Chuck Underwood, Harry Thorns, Eddie Thorns, Paul Huffman, Bill Ze-

tion of education and return of control of the schools to the local community. The project was undertaken by the California Association of School Administrators for whom Thomas acted as research consultant.

In commenting on the present controversy between the merits of progressive education versus traditional education, he stated: "I think there's been a very strong swing-back to the old method so that now we are drawing the best out of the old method without disregarding the best of the new. We are not adopting new methods simply because they are new or throwing out the 'tried and true' methods simply because they are old."

He has only the highest regard for Torrance's school system, saying that before he ever thought of coming here he knew that Torrance was one of the best districts in the State.

Dr. Thomas' eyes only twinkled with amusement when he was asked what he thought of the present generation and the claims sometimes made that youngsters nowadays are not learning the things their elders learned.

"Every generation feels that the generation that follows it is going to the dogs—but the whole history of civilization gives the lie to that idea. "The kids today have the same ideals, loyalty, and hopes for the betterment of mankind that generations had before them. In fact, theirs is far better because each generation knows more than the previous one."

Major Problem There is one problem which is a greater challenge than all the other problems that Dr. Thomas must deal with in his job. It is so tremendous that it staggers the imagination and is capable of terrifying the human mind.

"The schools and the public must face the fact that this is an entirely new era in Western civilization," Dr. Thomas said with grave concern.

"It is a period where even college graduates must go back to school to learn the problems of automation and a world controlled in large part by atomic energy.

"This means that the youngsters who are now in school are, for the most part, getting their only chance to learn how to make wise decisions in this type of era.

"As teachers we have to give them the basis on which to make those decisions—it's a tremendous responsibility.

"We look at the curriculum and insist on giving the kids the basic skills since no one can amount to anything without them.

"But over and beyond the basic skills we have to develop in them the technique of evaluating information and solving problems.

"It is this task that I'm dealing with when I am not dealing with the more immediate problems."

The Torrance School District's bold innovation in its administrative procedure may possibly mark another great milestone in American education.

peda, Bruce Kelterer, Dan Nolan, Gary Sigman, Jerry White, Dave Fender, Joe Surber, Ron Mittermeier, Ralph Heaney, Eugene Abrams, Tony Valet, and Norman Vroom.

The next South Bay T-Timers meeting will be held February 12th at 298 North Pacific Avenue, Redondo. Any boy sixteen

POLICE SCHOOL STARTED

A school for new police officers has been initiated for the first time by the Torrance Police Department under the leadership of Assistant Chief Percy Bennett, assisted by Lt. Hank Porter and Sgt. Bob Wright.

The 16-week course is intended to acquaint new officers with the fundamentals of law enforcement. About 30 men are enrolled in the class which meets once a week for two hours.

Bennett stated that the department decided to do its own instructing instead of sending the men to Los Angeles. This way there is no loss of manpower, the assistant chief stated.

A traffic department school is also being contemplated.

EDUCATION DOES not consist of mastering languages, but is found in that moral training which extends beyond the schoolroom to the playground and the street, and which teaches that a meaner thing can be done than to fail in recitation.—Chadbourne.

5-6635. The only stipulation asked is that the boy must have a drivers license.



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